

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method to represent a peak surface temperature experienced
2 by a medical device during a washing cycle in a medical washing machine, the
3 method comprising:
4 inserting the medical device into the medical washing machine for a
5 washing cycle;
6 positioning a thermometer strip proximate the medical device; and
7 indicating by the thermometer strip a peak temperature of the medical
8 device during the washing cycle in the medical washing machine.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the thermometer is positioned
2 proximate a surface of the medical device prior to inserting the medical device into
3 the medical washing machine, wherein the thermometer and the medical device are
4 inserted into the medical washing machine at the same time.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein indicating the peak
2 temperature comprises reading the peak thermometer temperature from an
3 irreversible thermometer strip after completion of the first washing cycle.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein indicating the peak
2 temperature comprises viewing the thermometer during the first washing cycle and
3 recording the peak thermometer temperature.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein positioning the thermometer
2 comprises affixing the thermometer to a tray used to support the medical device
3 during the washing cycle.
- 1 6. The method of claim 5 wherein the surface of the medical
2 device comprises a first material and the method further comprises matching a tray
3 material to the first material.

1 7. The method of claim 6 wherein the thermometer includes an
2 adhesive material layer and an adhesive layer covering, and wherein positioning the
3 thermometer comprises removing the adhesive layer covering and affixing the
4 adhesive material layer to the tray.

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the washing cycle comprises
2 in sequential order a first washing cycle, a second washing cycle, a third washing
3 cycle, a fourth washing cycle, a fifth washing cycle, and a sixth washing cycle,
4 wherein each washing cycle includes a desired medical washing temperature and
5 wherein the method further comprising indicating the peak surface temperature for
6 each washing cycle, wherein indicating the peak surface temperature for each
7 washing cycle comprises removing the thermometer positioned for the first washing
8 cycle and affixing a new thermometer prior to each subsequent washing cycle,
9 wherein each thermometer is selected from a group of thermometers having different
10 predefined thermometer temperature ranges such that the predefined temperature
11 range of the selected thermometer corresponds with the desired medical washing
12 temperature of the washing cycle.

1 9. The method of claim 8 wherein the first washing cycle is a
2 cold water rinse cycle and the method further comprises selecting a thermometer
3 having a thermometer temperature range comprises the range of 100° F to 110° F
4 so that the peak surface temperature can be indicated for use in preventing
5 hemoglobin from baking on the medical device.

1 10. The method of claim 8 wherein the second washing cycle is
2 an enzyme cycle and the method further comprises selecting a thermometer having
3 a thermometer temperature range comprises the range of 110° F to 130° F so that
4 the peak surface temperature can be indicated for use in preventing prevent enzymes
5 from become ineffective at breaking down proteins on the medical device.

1 11. The method of claim 8 wherein the third washing cycle is a
2 detergent cycle and the method further comprises selecting a thermometer having
3 a thermometer temperature range comprises the range of 140° F to 150° F so that

4 the peak surface temperature can be indicated for use in preventing the detergent
5 cycle from becoming ineffective.

1 12. The method of claim 8 wherein the fourth washing cycle is a
2 disinfection cycle and the method further comprises selecting a thermometer having
3 a thermometer temperature range comprises the range of 170° F to 180° F so that
4 the peak surface temperature can be indicated for use in preventing the detergent
5 cycle from becoming ineffective.

1 13. The method of claim 8 wherein the fifth washing cycle is an
2 ultrasonic cycle and the method further comprises selecting a thermometer having
3 a thermometer temperature range comprises the range of 100° F to 110° F if
4 enzymes are used and 120° F to 130° F if alkaline detergent is used so that the peak
5 surface temperature can be indicated for use in preventing the ultrasonic cycle from
6 becoming ineffective.

1 14. The method of claim 8 wherein the sixth washing cycle is a
2 manual soaking cycle and the method further comprises selecting a thermometer
3 having a thermometer temperature range comprises the range of 90° F to 110° F so
4 that the peak surface temperature can be indicated for use in preventing detergents
5 or enzymes from becoming ineffective.

1 15. A system to wash medical equipment, the system comprising;
2 a medical washing machine to provide fluid to wash the medical
3 equipment;
4 a tray to support the medical equipment during a washing cycle in the
5 medical washing machine; and
6 a thermometer affixed proximate a surface of the medical equipment
7 to indicate a thermometer temperature, wherein the thermometer is disconnected
8 from the medical washing machine and a peak thermometer temperature represents
9 the peak surface temperature experienced by the medical device during the first
10 washing cycle due to positioning the thermometer proximate the surface of the
11 medical device.

1 16. The system of claim 15 wherein the thermometer is an
2 irreversible thermometer having a temperature display, wherein the temperature
3 display indicates the peak thermometer temperature.

1 17. The system of claim 16 wherein the thermometer includes a
2 first side and a second side, and wherein the first side includes the display and the
3 second side includes an adhesive material layer and an adhesive layer covering so
4 that the adhesive layer covering can be removed to affix the thermometer to the tray.

1 18. The system of claim 17 wherein the tray comprises a material
2 matching a surface material of the medical equipment.

1 19. A method to represent a peak surface temperature experienced
2 by a medical device during a washing cycle in a medical washing machine, the
3 method comprising:
4 inserting the medical device into the medical washing machine for a
5 washing cycle, wherein inserting the medical device comprises placing the medical
6 device on a tray and inserting the medical device and the tray into the washing
7 machine at the same time;
8 positioning an irreversible thermometer strip to the tray proximate the
9 medical device; and
10 indicating by the irreversible thermometer strip a peak temperature
11 of the medical device during the washing cycle in the washing machine.

1 20. The method of claim 19 further comprising matching a
2 material of the tray to a material of the medical device such that the material of the
3 tray mimics the material of the medical device.